

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus, comprising:
a data store storing receiver operable to receive image data defining an image;
a receiver receiving data identifying a sequence of different selector operable to select
one or more portions of the in an image as portions of the [[an]] image which are to be
sequentially emphasized emphasised; and
an image processing unit processing the stored operable to process image data received
by said receiver to generate a sequence of [[a]] composite images in which the portions of the
said composite image defined by image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein the portions
of each composite image identified by the receiver corresponding to said portions to be
emphasised selected by said selector correspond to the said portions of the image defined by data
stored received by said the data store receiver and in which other portions of the said composite
images image in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by
the said data stored by the data store received by said receiver to which a blurring function has
been applied.
2. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein
said image processing unit comprises:
a blurring engine generating operable to generate a blurred image corresponding to an
image stored by the data store received by said receiver; and
a composite image generator generating operable to generate composite images
comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data stored by the data
store received by said receiver and portions of images generated by said blurring engine. engine
on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be emphasised made by said selector.
3. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 2 wherein
the said blurring engine generates is operable to generate blurred images corresponding to

images stored by the data store received by said receiver by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in an said image defined by stored received image data by calculating a weighted average of stored received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized utilised to calculate said weighted average.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit generates is operable to generate a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image selected by selector as portions of an image to be emphasized emphasised by copying image data for said pixels from image data stored by the data store received by said receiver and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of stored received image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized utilised to calculate said weighted average.

6. (Original) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

7. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 5 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a function data store storing function data defining a plurality of functions for deriving operable to derive composite image data from image data stored by the data store received by said receiver in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received by said receiver and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data stored by the data store received by said receiver to which a blurring function has been applied;

a selection unit selecting ~~operable to select~~ function data defining a function from said function ~~data~~ store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasized ~~emphasised by said selector~~; and

a processing unit generating ~~operable to generate~~ a composite image utilizing ~~utilising~~ image data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ and function data selected by said selection unit.

8 - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 1 wherein said image processing unit processes ~~is operable to process~~ image data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ to generate a composite image in which portions of the image defined by data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ which do not correspond to portions to be emphasized ~~emphasised selected by said selector~~ correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data stored by the data store ~~received by said receiver~~ to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

11. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 10 wherein ~~said selector is operable to associate portions of said image with data indicative of levels a level of importance wherein are assigned to portions of an image and~~ said image processing unit is operable to generate a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

12 – 38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An image generation method, comprising:

receiving image data and data identifying a sequence of different
~~identifying one or more portions in of~~ portions of an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasized sequentially emphasized; and

processing received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of the image defined by received image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein the portions of each said composite image identified by received data as the corresponding to said portions to be emphasised emphasized identified by received selection data correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite images in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

40. (Currently Amended) A non-transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data and data identifying a sequence of different; identify one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised sequentially emphasized; and

process received image data to generate a sequence of composite images in which the portions of the image defined by received image data are sequentially emphasized, wherein the portions of each said composite image corresponding to said identified by the received data as portions to be emphasised emphasized identified by received selection data correspond to said portions of the image defined by received image data and in which other portions of said composite images in the sequence of images correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said received image data to which a blurring function has been applied.

41. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive data store storing image data; a selector operable to select selecting one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised emphasized; and

an image processing unit operable to process processing image data received stored by said receiver data store to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised emphasized selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received stored by said receiver data store outlined by a border of a defined colour color and in which other portions of said composite

image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data ~~received~~stored by said ~~receiver~~data store to which a blurring function has been applied.

42. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41 wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a blurring engine ~~operable to generate~~ generating a blurred image corresponding to an image ~~received~~stored by said ~~receiver~~data store; and

a composite image generator ~~operable to generate~~ generating composite images comprising portions of images selected from images defined by image data ~~received~~stored by said ~~receiver~~data store outlined by a border of defined color and portions of images generated by said blurring engine on the basis of selections of portions of an image to be ~~emphasised~~ emphasized made by said selector.

43. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 42 wherein said blurring engine is ~~operable to generate~~ generates blurred images corresponding to images ~~received~~stored by said ~~receiver~~data store by deriving pixel values for pixels in a blurred image corresponding to pixels in said image defined by ~~received~~stored image data by calculating a weighted average of ~~received~~stored image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being utilized to calculate said weighted average.

44. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is ~~operable to generate~~ generates a composite image by determining pixel data for areas of an image selected by selector as portions of an image to be emphasized by copying image data for said pixels from image data ~~received~~stored by said ~~receiver~~data store and to determine pixel data for the remaining portions of a composite image by calculating for pixels in said remaining portions of a composite image a weighted average of ~~received~~stored image data weighted by a function dependent upon the distance between a pixel in an image for which pixel data is being generated and a corresponding pixel in said image being ~~utilised~~ utilized to calculate said weighted average.

45. (Previously Presented) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said function dependent upon distance comprises a Gaussian function.

46. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 44, wherein said image processing unit comprises:

a data-function store storing function data defining a plurality of functions operable to derive deriving composite image data from image data received stored by said receiver data store in which some portions of a composite image correspond to said portions of the image defined by data received stored by said receiver data store and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said data received stored by said receiver data store to which a blurring function has been applied;

a selection unit operable to select selecting function data defining a function from said data-function store on the basis of the one or more areas selected as portions of an image to be emphasized by said selector; and

a processing unit operable to generate generating a composite image utilizing image data received stored by said receiver data store and function data selected by said selection unit.

47. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 46, wherein said selector is responsive to receipt of status data identifying a default status to cause said selector to identify the entirety of an image as being the portion of an image to be emphasised emphasized.

48. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 47, further comprising:

a display generation unit operable to generate generating image data defining an image identifying at least one reading obtained by said one or more detectors and to pass generated images to said receiver data store.

49. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, wherein said image processing unit is ~~operable to process~~ processing image data ~~received stored~~ by said ~~receiver data store~~ to generate a composite image in which portions of the image defined by data ~~received stored~~ by said ~~receiver data store~~ which do not correspond to portions to be emphasised emphasized selected by said selector correspond to said portions of the image defined by said data ~~received stored~~ by said ~~receiver data store~~ to which a number of different blurring functions have been applied.

50. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 49, wherein said selector ~~is operable to associate~~ associating portions of said image with data indicative of a level of importance wherein said image processing unit ~~is operable to generate~~ generates a composite image in which portions of a composite image associated with decreasing levels of importance appear to be increasingly blurred.

51. (Currently Amended) An image generation apparatus in accordance with claim 41, further comprising:

one or more detectors ~~operable to obtain~~ obtaining readings of external conditions; and a status determination unit ~~operable to determine~~ determining a current status on the basis of readings ~~received stored~~ from said detectors;

wherein said selector ~~is operable to receive~~ receives status data from said status determination unit and select areas to be emphasised emphasized based on ~~received stored~~ status data.

52. (Currently Amended) An image generation method, comprising:

receiving image data;

identifying one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised emphasized; and

processing ~~received stored~~ image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised emphasized correspond to said portions of the image defined by ~~received stored~~ image data outlined by a

border of a defined ~~eeleur~~ color and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said ~~received~~-stored data to which a blurring function has been applied.

53. (Currently Amended) A non transient computer readable medium storing computer implementable instructions for causing a programmable computer to:

receive image data;

identify one or more portions in an image as portions of an image which are to be emphasised-emphasized;

process received image data to generate a composite image in which the portions of said composite image corresponding to said portions to be emphasised-emphasized correspond to said portions of the image defined by ~~received~~-stored image data outlined by a border of a defined ~~eeleur~~ color and in which other portions of said composite image correspond to the other portions of the image defined by said ~~received~~-stored data to which a blurring function has been applied.